

# The DX Bulletin

AMATEUR RADIO'S OLDEST WEEKLY PUBLICATION

ISSUE 228 FEBRUARY 27, 1984

PROPAGATION: Feb 27, Low Normal; Feb 28-29, High Normal; Mar 1, High/Low Normal; Mar 2, Disturbed; Mar 3,4, High Normal; Mar 5-7, Above Normal; Mar 8, High Normal; Mar 9, Low Normal; Mar 10, High Normal; Mar 11, Low Normal; Mar 12, Below Normal. TNX N4XX.

Flux (81)	Flux (82)	Flux (83)	Date	Flux (84)	Alpha (84)	K (84)
192	175	92	2/16	116	13	2
190	167	94	2/17	117	8	3
180	170	100	2/18	119	11	2
183	179	97	2/19	126	17	1
193	175	100	2/20	134	10	2
207	169	104	2/21	138	10	4
204	167	109	2/22	147	14	2

OUR PREDICTIONS for the ARRL CW DX Competition (in Issue 226) seem to have been uncannily accurate. 160 and 80, unfortunately, were even worse than we predicted (we predicted very noisy conditions because most of the U.S. has had unseasonably warm weather for the past month). We were wrong in predicting that K1XM would work 80 countries on 40 Meters... he worked 88! 10 Meters opened as we predicted, but the openings were brief and very selective. 15 Meters also did well, but 20 turned out to be the best band, overall.

PREDICTIONS FOR THE PHONE CONTEST (Mar 3/4) are as follows: all bands except 80 and 160 will be better than they were on CW; 40 M. propagation will be better than on CW, but there will be fewer DXCC countries to work. Sunday Mar 4 will be better than Saturday, unless a solar event wipes all bands out.

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CLIPPERTON IN DOUBT: rumors on the bands that "Clipperton is cancelled" are absolutely not true. There is a problem with the chartered boat, but all team members are proceeding with plans for the Mar 5 departure. We expect to have definite word in the next issue as to whether they are going to meet that date.

NIGER: as we go to press still nothing from the Hensons...they met TU2NW in Naimay (the capital) and the latest word is they were waiting for "one signature." They will extend their stay if licensing comes through. Incidentally, one F6BFN/TT was worked 2/22 but we think maybe he was just in France, and the /TT was really /00, his district number.

ZL8AFH Kermadec showed on the VK9NS net, 0600Z Feb 13, 14210. VK9NS still struggling to put together enough money for a mid-Mar ZL8 trip.

NO indication of how long the current Cocos operation will last; QSLing is to each individual TI9(2) callsign, as if enough Yankee dollars aren't already flowing to Central America...VU2GDG reportedly began sending out VU7WCY QSLs about two weeks ago...CY9SAB was on again last week from Sable, this time signing the correct callsign...G8GRN/5X seems to be learning rapidly and is now working SSB pileups (14.160 at 19-2000Z), but he still does not work split...A6XYB is W6XYB, operating from the "Royal Palace," but no word on whether his paperwork will pass the Newington inspection; A6XAS (A6ASS for a few days) reportedly operates from the same station...XZ9BSC is CE3BSC, on King George in the S. Shetlands, worked in Europe on 7.080 at 05Z... Another unfortunately dubious station reported is I5SDV/5U, 14024, 1300Z on 2/22...TL8GE says he and QSL manager F6FYD leave for Chad around Mar 25, with hopes of a license; apparently several French amateurs in Chad have verbal permission to use the amateur bands for communication back home, but these are unlikely to count for DXCC credit...during the ARRL CW activity on the 18th and 19th, the Texas DX Society's XE2FU operation was a sign of the times: they made 8696 QSOs, with 648 on 160 Meters but only 965 on 10!... Remember Heard Island? A very professional film documentary, made for the scientists who accompanied VK0CW/VK0HI has a few shots of the amateur radio operations, but the entire film not once mentions the fact that another group of scientists and amateurs (namely, the Jim Smith, VK9NS, H.I.DX.A. group) was on Heard at the same time! The film does not even acknowledge the fact that Smith's group pulled one of the other outfit's dinghys from the water...O68WB (likes 15 SSB at 1800Z) is a retired U.S. doctor working there; N6ZV left him an IC730 and TH2 beam... speaking of N6ZV, many have sent QSLs to his FM0GA address only to have them bounced back by the Martinique post office; we recommend you QSL to the N6ZV California address... We think it is more than coincidence that 75 per cent of our Alaska subscribers have dropped their subscriptions in the last nine months or so...ironic, isn't it, that those trying to get the Pribilofs accepted for DXCC status will now have access to the "DXAC PAPERS" courtesy of the very publication they claim treated them unfairly...J01GOF and J01CLZ will operate /JD1 Ogasawara Mar 17-30, 160-10 Meters; QSL to their home calls... PA0VDV currently signing /PJ2 Curacao will be there until Mar 12; he was a resident and licensed as PJ2VD in the 70's...

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## INTRODUCTION

WHEN something such as Alaska's Pribilof Islands is suggested for DXCC country status, the decision is made within the ARRL Headquarters if there is no doubt as to a "yes" or "no" answer. When questions arise the matter is referred to the DX Advisory Committee (see Sidebar) for comment.

The DXAC works from the same "Countries Criteria" which appears in every DXCC Countries List, with help from what is being referred to as "secret criteria." Current DXAC Chairman W5SR is quoted in QRZ DX as saying the document is "a set of internal guidelines to aid DXAC members in interpreting the present countries criteria as printed on the front of the DXCC List."

The Chairman was also asked why the DXAC document has not been made available for public inspection...his reply (again, in QRZ DX), was that "they were simply intended for internal DXAC use only and there was no real reason for anyone to be concerned about any secrets." (He also said) "that the guidelines themselves were subjective and the League so far decided that it was better not to publish them" (emphasis added).

And that is why The DX Bulletin has decided to publish the "secret" ARRL DX Advisory Committee countries criteria guidelines. They appear here in their entirety, unexpurgated, and exactly as they are supplied to each DXAC member. Note that each of the five sections begins with the DXCC criteria as it appears in the DXCC Countries List, followed by explanation and elaboration.

W5SR  
2 Feb 80  
1/3

## GUIDELINES FOR INTERPRETING THE DXCC COUNTRY CRITERIA

These guidelines can be useful in interpreting the DXCC country criteria. They are intended to apply only to new countries under consideration and are not to be used for deletion of existing countries.

### 1. GOVERNMENT

"An area by reason of Government constitutes a separate entity."

1. Recognition by or membership in the United Nations qualifies a country for separate DXCC status.
2. Some nations recognized as fully sovereign are not members of the U.N. (although some of these are permanent observers). These nations are characterized by having diplomatic relations with a number of U.N. member nations and they may qualify as separate DXCC countries. (Currently this includes Andorra, Republic of China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Nauru, San Marino, ~~Solomon Islands~~, Switzerland, Tonga and the Vatican City.) The purpose of this note is to show that with fully sovereign nations, U.N. membership is not necessary, only sufficient.
3. Other areas of special sovereignty which are not totally independent may be considered for separate DXCC country status by reason of Government. Included are Territories, Overseas Departments, Dependencies, Associated States, Colonies, Protected States, Free Associations, and Homelands. These will be considered on an individual basis to determine if they qualify. In most cases a judgement must be made to establish if sufficient independence (lack of foreign jurisdiction) exists. The following characteristics are to be considered although they are not necessary and sufficient to establish country status by reason of Government:
  - a. Belong to the ITU.
  - b. Have unique call sign allocations assigned to them.
  - c. Issue coinage.
  - d. Issue stamps.
  - e. Maintain a standing army.
  - f. Issue passports.
  - g. Sign treaties.
  - h. Maintain consulates and embassies.
  - i. Issue landing and operating permits.
4. A nation which qualifies by reason of Government as a separate DXCC country and which consists of two or more separated land areas will be considered as a single DXCC country unless the areas can qualify by Separation by Water (point 2) or Separation by Foreign Land (point 3).

Note: Several references are useful in determining the status of a proposed DXCC country:

- a. STATUS OF THE WORLD'S NATIONS, Bureau of Intelligence and Research, United States Department of State, Publication 8735. Available from the U.S. Government Printing Office.
- b. NATIONAL BASIC INTELLIGENCE FACTBOOK, Published Semiannually by the Central Intelligence Agency. Available from the U.S. Government Printing Office.
- c. THE STATESMAN'S YEARBOOK, Edited by John Paxton, St. Martin's Press, New York.

### 2. SEPARATION BY WATER:

"An island or a group of islands, not having its own government is considered as a separate entity under the following conditions:

- (a) Islands situated off shore from their governing area must be geographically separated by a minimum of 225 miles of open water. This point is concerned with islands off shore from the mainland only. This point is not concerned with islands which are part of an island group or are geographically located adjacent to an island group."

1. In the case of a single island, the criteria is met under this point if the minimum distance between the island and the governing country is 225 miles or more of open water. The 225 mile distance is measured not counting the distance across any foreign (DXCC) intervening land which is covered in point 3.
2. The governing country may be part of a continent, another island or a group of islands. In each case, the 225 mile minimum distance criterion must be met with respect to all land masses which are part of the governing country.
3. If the governing country is a group of islands with one or more islands separated by more than 225 miles from every other island in the group, the island which has the capitol city of the country will be considered as the starting point for all measurements.
4. The intent of the open water requirement is not to disallow a country under this point which has an intervening foreign (DXCC) land mass or island along the minimum distance projection, if the distance requirement over open water is met.
5. Islands within 225 miles of the governing country count the same as the governing country.
6. Additional islands under the same government can qualify as separate DXCC countries if both the 225 mile minimum distance and the part 2(b) requirements are met.



- (b) "Islands forming part of an island group or which are geographically located adjacent to an island, or island group, which have a common government, will be considered as separate entities provided there is at least 500 miles of open water separation between the two areas in question.

1. Part 2(a) defines the conditions where a single island may count as a separate DXCC country. Part 2(b) is an extension of single island rule where two or more islands are involved. This part limits the number of separate countries that can be created by the "separation by water" rules.

Part 2(b) is applied when more than one island meets the 225 minimum distance criterion.

2. All islands within the group must be considered individually to establish if the distance requirements for each are met.
3. An island qualifies under Part 2(b) if the minimum distance from it to every other island which counts as a DXCC country and is under the same government is greater than 500 miles. That is, it must be greater than 225 miles from the governing country and greater than 500 miles from countries created under Part 2(a) and Part 3.

4. Comment 5 (open water) of Part 2(a) also applies to Part 2(b).

### 3. "SEPARATION BY FOREIGN LAND":

"In the case of a country, such as that covered by Point 1, which has a common government but which is geographically separated by land which is foreign to that country, if there is a complete separation of the country in question by a minimum of 75 miles of foreign land, the country, is considered as two separate entities. This 75 miles of land is a requirement which is applicable to land areas only. In cases of areas made up of a chain of islands, there is no minimum requirement concerned with the separation by foreign land."

1. In the first case, if a country by reason of government is separated by a foreign (DXCC) land or lands into two areas which at no point are closer than 75 miles, it qualifies as a separate DXCC country.
2. The distance measured may include inland lakes and seas that are part of (owned) by a foreign (DXCC) land.
3. Open (not owned) seas and oceans may make up part of the distance between the two areas, however, the distance across them does not count toward the 75 miles minimum requirement.
4. In the second case, if two islands are totally separated by a foreign (DXCC) land, two separate DXCC countries exist. This applies only to a country by reason of government which consists of a group of islands. No minimum distance is required. Total separation means that it is not possible to draw a line from any point on the first island to any point on the second without passing through foreign land. The foreign land may be a part of either or both islands or may be another island.

### 4. UNADMINISTERED AREA:

"Any area which is unadministered will not be eligible for consideration as a separate entity."

1. Unadministered here means unclaimed, or unowned.
2. In the case where multiple claims exist for an area, it is considered administered.
3. The issuance by a government of a landing permit or amateur radio licensee for operation from the area in question is considered administration by that government. However, neither is necessary to constitute administration by that government.

5. (a) Any area which is classified as a Demilitarized Zone, Neutral Zone or Buffer Zone will not be eligible for consideration as a separate entity.
- (b) Embassies, consulates and extraterritorial monuments will not be eligible for consideration as a separate entity from the host country.

### DXCC CHAIN OF COMMAND

by Jim Cain, K1TN\*

DX Advisory Committee Members (indeed, all advisory committee members, including Contests, DX, Emergency Communications, VHR and Repeaters, etc.), are unpaid ARRL members, one per ARRL division, with an interest in the committee's area. They are appointed by the ARRL director for their division. In-person meetings are not held; discussions and votes are conducted by mail.

Staff Liaison: a paid Headquarters employee, normally the one most closely connected to the day-to-day operations on the special interest area of the committee. The staff liaison is a middle-level employee; in the cases of contests and DX, the liaison is an Assistant Communications Manager. The liaison functions as a clearinghouse for committee activities and often decides what topics will be considered by the committee.

Headquarters Department Head: in the case of the DX and Contest Advisory Committees, the ARRL Communications Manager is the department head; he, in conjunction with the appropriate Assistant Communications Manager, makes and implements policy.

ARRL Awards Committee: until a few years ago, called the "Headquarters Awards Committee." Made up of a half-dozen or so headquarters employees with contest and DX experience. The Awards Committee advises the Communications Manager, primarily in cases of possible disqualification of contest and DXCC participants. Also provides advice of a general nature to the C.M. Note that the final decision rests with the C.M. Some Communications Managers have accepted Awards Committee recommendations almost 100 per cent; others have been somewhat more autonomous.

General Manager: a paid headquarters employee, appointed by and answerable to the ARRL Board of Directors, who has authority to overrule decisions of the Communications Manager. It so happens that the current G.M. has vast experience in both contests and DX.

Board of Directors: has the power to overrule headquarters decisions, and often does so. Unfortunately, at any given time few if any Board members have contest or DX expertise comparable to headquarters staff members. Board members often formulate their views and recommend action on the basis of input from a statistically tiny group of their constituencies (the "Vocal Minority").

\*K1TN was a volunteer member of the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee and, later, a paid headquarters employee. He was Assistant Communications Manager for Contests, headquarters staff liaison for the Contest Advisory Committee, and a member of the ARRL Awards Committee. He resigned from League employment in March 1978, two years before the accompanying DXAC guidelines were written.



## CALENDAR

Curacao	PA0VDV Now to Mar 12
Cocos	TI9J etc probably over by now
Uganda	G8GRN/5X 14.160 +/- 2000Z
Antarctica	AT0A by VU2IF through March
N Cooks	ZK1MA by K6OZL now to Mar 20; I 227
YASME	W6KG/ZP5 now, then CE0A and CE0Z
Kermadec	ZL8AFH on 75, 40, and 20 SSB 06-08Z
Cambodia	XU1SS quiet; try 14.025 at 1300Z
Jamaica	KJ8G/6Y5 now to Mar 14
Falklands	VP8KF by G3VPW very active, now thru Mar
S Shetlands	XQ9BSC on 7080 at 05Z
Bahamas	K0GVB/C6A now to Mar 1; N4BP and N5RM gone
Samoa	5W1BC by DL1VU ends Feb 29; last stop
Maldives	8Q7AH by HB9TL ends Feb 27
Niger	WB4ZNH still trying; keep listening
St Kitts	VP2KBD and VP2KBE now to Mar 2
Clipperton	Still hoping for Mar 5 depart date; I 228
St Maarten	P47LTA etc now to Mar 8
Am Samoa	K2FJ/KH8 rumored on now
Samoa	5W1ER by K2FJ also rumored on now
Caymans	ZF2GW by W2 group now to Mar 6
Caymans	ZF2FL by N6RJ Mar 3/4
Aves	YV0AA Feb 28-Mar 1; I 225
Water Island	KB1LC/KP2 Mar 1-6
BVI	K9GL group Feb 27-Mar 12
BVI	VP2VID by W4JVN Feb 29-Mar 10
Contest	ARRL DX Phone Mar 3/4
Oman	GFT activity Mar 9-26; I 226
Berlenga Is	CT0BI Mar 16-18; I 226
China	VE7BC there end of Mar; I 221
DEADLINE	DXCC Honor Roll QSLs to Newington by Mar 30!

## CONTRIBUTORS

WE WILL LIST YOU ALL next issue...Bandpass and some other stuff got shoved aside by the DXAC Papers, which we thought were important enough to devote two pages to. If you sit on a scoop too long it will probably end up not being a scoop!

We are especially grateful at this time for everyone who is contributing information, as our antennas are all disassembled on the ground. We will be working Jim Smith's Kermadec expedition with a dipole!

Incidentally, we took a Hy-Gain TH6DXX apart after going up brand new just over two years ago...all their chintzy hardware was totally rusted through. The beam probably would have stayed up all right, but every last piece of hardware will have to be replaced. That is absolutely inexcusable, and you will not be seeing any Hy-Gain advertisements in TDXB. This appears to simply be another case of the Bean Counters taking over decisions formerly made by employees who were hams.

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